Base Period

Defined in 21 V.S.A. 1301 (17)(A)

(17)(B) For benefit years beginning on January 3, 1988 and subsequent thereto the "base period" shall be the period made up of the **first four of the most recently completed five calendar quarters** immediately preceding the first day of a claimant's benefit year, and for any individual who **fails to meet the eligibility** requirements of section 1338 of this title in this base period, the commissioner shall make a redetermination of entitlement based upon a base period which consists of the **last four completed calendar quarters** immediately preceding the first day of the claimant's benefit year.

(C) For any individual who fails to qualify for benefits under subdivision (B) above, the commissioner shall make a redetermination of entitlement based upon a base period which consists of the **last three completed calendar quarters and all wages paid prior to the effective date** of the claimant's initial claim in the calendar quarter in which the initial claim was filed.

Example:

·	Completed Quarters Gross wages paid that are used in calculating weekly benefit amount					↓ Claim filed here ↓ (any time during 1st qtr 2010)
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	5th Qtr	Current Qtr
Method 1	Oct - Dec 2008	Jan - Mar 2009	Apr - Jun 2009	July - Sept 2009		
Method 2		Jan - Mar 2009	Apr - Jun 2009	July - Sept 2009	Oct - Dec 2009	
Method 3			Apr - Jun 2009	July - Sept 2009	Oct - Dec 2009	Jan up to claim effective date

In this example, if the individual filed a new claim during January, February, or March in 2010, calculation of the weekly benefit amount would use wages paid to the individual during October, November, and December of 2008 and all wages paid during January 2009 through September of 2009.

If the individual is found ineligible for benefits, we would move to "Method 2", using all wages paid in 2009.

If the individual is still ineligible, we would move to "Method 3", using all wages paid during April 2009 through December of 2009, and all wages paid up to the effective date of the initial claim filed.

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